



March 9, 2012

This Week:

- Legislative session update
- Colman dock customers: AWV construction update
- New laser measuring system for vehicles
- Customer compliment

Legislative session update

The [2012 supplemental transportation budget](#) and two transportation fee bills ([SB 6150](#) and [HB 2660](#)) were passed this week. The current level of ferry service is fully funded for the 11-13 biennium, including preservation of vessels and terminals and continued environmental work on the [Mukilteo](#) and [Colman](#) dock projects. The second, 144-car ferry is now funded due to the passage of a fee bill. This much needed ferry will replace one of the 1950s-era Evergreen State Class vessels. I greatly appreciate the dedication from our legislators to fund WSF, but this is only a down payment on the long-term needs of the system. It is unfortunate that the [Governor's proposal](#) for a sustainable ferry system was not addressed this session. The legislature is in special session to resolve the budget for the general fund. The next step for the budget is to be reviewed and acted on by the Governor. The legislative session may be winding down, but I meet next week with WSDOT headquarters to begin the process for developing the budget for the 13-15 biennium.

Colman dock customers: AWV construction update

You may have noticed all the construction happening under the Alaskan Way Viaduct lately, particularly right outside Colman dock (Seattle terminal). SR 99 tunnel crews are strengthening the ground along the future tunnel route, relocating electrical transmission lines attached to the viaduct and building a 100-foot-deep pit from which the tunnel boring machine will begin its journey north. In our conversations with the project team, we're told the delivery and launch of the tunnel boring machine will happen in 2013. To follow construction progress, visit the [Alaskan Way Viaduct replacement program website](#) for more information. We are fully aware that the increased congestion around Colman dock makes travel more difficult for our Bainbridge Island and Bremerton customers. We are working closely with our project partners to minimize the impacts.

New laser measuring system for vehicles

In response to the "under 14-foot vehicle" fare category approved by the Washington State Transportation Commission in Sept. and put into effect Oct. 1, WSF has new laser measuring devices to confirm vehicle length. Once a vehicle is measured and confirmed to be shorter than 14 feet, the car will receive a windshield sticker, so future ticket sellers know that the vehicle is applicable for a discounted fare. Visit the [WSF fares Web page](#) for detailed fare information for all routes. We encourage customers to arrive 30 minutes in advance of their desired sailing, if they are requesting to have a vehicle measured. Customers may also call 206-464-6400 to get more information and/or make an appointment.

Customer compliment

I received the following compliment from a Seattle resident and customer of the Mukilteo/Clinton route. I want to thank WSF Operations Revenue Collection Program Manager Kathy Booth for setting an example of excellent customer service.

On Feb. 6, we did not get our Orca card back from the ticket seller at the Clinton terminal (our fault). We called the ferry service and Kathy was wonderful; knowledgeable, helpful, diligent, good-natured. We got our card back; Kathy explained the background and the options. We're almost glad we left the card so we could deal with Kathy.

Next Week:

- Vehicle reservation system partnership meeting
- Tribal consultations regarding the Mukilteo Terminal Project

David Moseley's weekly updates are available on the WSDOT Ferries Division website at www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/weekly.

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